

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 15, 2005, has been received and its contents carefully considered. Reconsideration and withdrawal of outstanding rejections are respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 14, 16, 21-23 and 29 were rejected as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter. These claims have been amended taking into account the language noted by the Examiner, and believed this rejection has been overcome.

Claims 1-11, 13-36 and 42 were rejected as being anticipated by Brockman. Claims 37-41 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brockman. Without conceding the propriety of these rejections, independent claims 1, 20, 27, 29 and 37 have been amended and the rejection is respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

Each of independent claims 1, 20, 27, 29 and 37 has been amended to recite that the dock wall has a front face around the sides of the opening and an inside face facing into the opening with the front face and inside face meeting at a corner. These claims have also been amended to recite that the first panel, which is mounted for pivotable movement relative to the dock wall, is mountable to the front face of the dock wall so that the second axis is laterally outside of the corner. Turning for example to the embodiment shown in FIG. 4 of application, will be appreciated that panel 18 is mounted to the dock wall 1 via an L-shaped spring 36 which is identified as an example of a hinged type structure that may be used. The location of the mounting point of item 36 is on the front face of the dock wall and also the second axis thus located adjacent the front face and spaced laterally outside of the corner.

Turning to Brockman, this reference shows a hinge 230 mounted inside of the inside face of a frame 150. In contrast, the present invention provides beneficial embodiments as recited in amended claims 1, 20, 27, 29, and 37 wherein the first panel is mountable so that the second axis

adjacent the front wall face. This provides the advantage of certain embodiments of the invention in that a separate spacing frame 150 such as that disclosed in Brockman is required. The mounting arrangement which permits the axis to be adjacent the front wall provides an advantage in that embodiments are permitted that do not require a separate mounting frame component such as Brockman's frame 150, which can make the assembly more compact, and also simpler to manufacture, compared to the device of Brockman. It also reduces the total number of components required in some embodiments compared to Brockman.

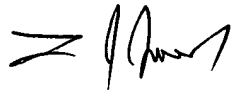
Claims 43 to 55 are newly added. An independent examination of these claims is respectfully requested. These claims recite several features not seen in Brockman, including for example, details of the backing member associated with the hinge region between the panels.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would be helpful in expediting prosecution of the application; the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 202-861-1696.

In the event this paper is not timely filed, Applicant petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fee deficiencies or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2036 with reference to Attorney Docket No. 87353.2961.

Respectfully submitted,

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